

# THE NONAGON



**SPRING 2002**

NEW HAMPSHIRE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

## REMEMBERING WAYNE RICH

I too am saddened about the passing of Wayne Rich. I met him in 1963 when we met to form the New Hampshire Numismatic Association. I was the President of the Pease AFB Club. I talked to several other coin club members in the state about forming a state association. They all were interested. I called for a meeting to be held in Concord in April of that year. Over the years, I have forgotten who all were there, but I have never forgotten Wayne Rich. I was voted the first president and received Charter Member No. 1. I also remember David Strenstrom from Pease, Bill Prince from Epping. We had a great show that year. I remember having a brilliant uncirculated 1881-S silver dollar in my case for 85 cents for three days and no one bought it.

Wayne Rich became the corner stone and the work horse for this association. I was in the service and shortly after we formed the association, I was shipped out and never got back until 1973. I met Wayne several times at different shows and he was still the same hard working gentleman that I had known. I have since become a full time antique dealer and let the coin collecting slip. I am still a life member of the association and enjoy reading the Nonagon. I really miss the days when we got together as collectors and dealers. The people were really helpful and taught us a lot about numismatics. I miss people such as Wayne Rich, Bill Prince, the Hamels, Mr. and Mrs. Dame, Charles Seaman, The Gasaway Brothers and all the other collector friends that we met. I wish that I could remember their names. Thank you for the great memories of Wayne Rich that you shared in this issue of the Nonagon.

Sincerely, Royal Feltner

*The Nonagon will print remembrances of Wayne Rich in future issues. Please send your submissions to the editor.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please take a close look at your mailing label on the front of this issue of *The Nonagon*. If a "00" is after your membership number, this will be your last issue. Please send your dues to the Sam Allen, PO Box 1655, Dover, NH 03820. We have included a handy membership form on the same cover.

We have had a few *Nonagons* returned by the Postal Service. If you know these members' whereabouts, please let us know.

Charles Pike

Ken Fancher

Finally we note the passing of Life Member Henry Daneau. He shall be missed.

*Please send member news to the editor.*

Centennial Auctions will be selling the Estate Collection of Wayne S. Rich featuring New Hampshire Town Medals, other New Hampshire, New England and numismatic Exonumia. Also included are a complete Canada \$1.00 BU Set, other Canada and Great Britain sets and Type coinage. The auctions will take place on June 12 and June 18 at the Holiday Inn in Nashua. The June 18 session has an original BU bag of 1878 7TF Morgan Dollars.

Catalogs will be available in late May and posted on the internet at [www.centennialauctions.com](http://www.centennialauctions.com). Centennial can be reached at 603-539-6619, [info@centennialauctions.com](mailto:info@centennialauctions.com) or P.O. Box 144, Effingham, NH 03882.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual NHNA meeting will be held at 2PM on 19 May 2002, at the Third Sunday Coin Show in the Nashua Holiday Inn. Election of Officers is the main topic of the agenda. If you have other matters to discuss, please bring them to the attention of the President.

The Nashua Holiday Inn is at 9 Northeastern Boulevard, off Exit 4 of Route 3. The Third Sunday show is one of the best regular shows in New England, and Jim Guinesso has been an excellent supporter of this Association. Come out early and see if you can add to your collections.

# Auctions Are Still the Best Way of Determining Market Value...

"Auctions are still the best way of determining fair market value," said Alexander Forger, a lawyer with Milbanks, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, who was an executor of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis estate sold in 1996 for \$13.1 million. "There's no question of the validity and integrity of public auction." *New York Times*, 12/07/01.

Bowers and Merena Galleries has been in the forefront of the public auction arena for decades. In fact, Bowers and Merena Galleries is viewed as the standard against which all other auction houses measure themselves! Whether your collection is worth \$5,000, \$50,000 or more than \$500,000, the same expertise that showcased the world's most valuable collection will showcase your coins as well.

Consider the following:

Four of five of the most valuable United States coin collections were sold by Bowers and Merena Galleries; in first place, the Elienberg Collection for \$44,900,000, followed by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection at \$38,000,000, the Garrett and Norweb Collections were also sold by our firm and rank as the third and fifth largest collections ever sold.

Of the top five world record prices for U.S. coins, Bowers and Merena Galleries has sold three—including the most valuable coin ever sold, the 1804 dollar for \$4,140,000. During the 1996-2000 period, as published in *Auction Prices Realized*, Bowers and Merena continued its success of record holding prices realized with five of the top 10 and 18 of the top 50!

Over 50,000 active customers with hundreds of thousands of interested viewers and readers who can become active buyers at any moment in time! Our affiliation with Collectors Universe, owner of the many high-end collectibles companies, provides us with the most important and largest list of collectors ever assembled who will be made aware of the sale of your coins through our public auction and on the internet. And, let's remember that the same bidders and buyers who set world record prices in the past, will be competing for your collection as well!



John Pack



Rick Bagg

Highly respected and world renowned, Q. David Bowers is one of the most successful numismatists of our time. Dave has received more numismatic awards and honors than any other in his field, has served as President of the ANA and the PNG and is the only person who has ever held both of these esteemed offices. In addition, he is the author of over four-dozen numismatic books. Joined by Rick Bagg, Tom Becker, Mark Borckardt, John Kraljevich, John Pack, Beth Piper, Frank VanValen, and Gordon Wrubel, we have expertise and decades of experience in every area of numismatics.

Awards, awards and more awards. Each year the Numismatic Literary Guild gives awards for auction catalogues, books and publications. We have received more such awards than any other rare coin company in history.

Our next prestigious auction is waiting for your collection. You can take advantage of the same expertise, the same track record, and the same quality of cataloguing, all for a low commission rate that you will find to be very competitive. It makes sense to have the most prestigious rare coin auctioneer handle your collection. Dave Bowers will personally supervise and participate in the showcasing of your collection or individual rarities, while the entire Bowers and Merena Galleries staff will lend expertise and enthusiasm. And, we can offer you an immediate cash advance against your consignments while we showcase your coins to their finest advantage.

We have the perfect auction coming up in 2002 for your coins, currency, world coins, tokens and medals, and other numismatic items. To reserve a place for your material call Rick Bagg or John Pack today at 800-458-4646. It may well be the most financially rewarding decision you have ever made.

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MOGWA

these great men less worthy of commemoration on United States coinage than, for example, the huckster from Bridgeport, CT - Phineas T. Barnum? He is most remembered for his famous quote, "There's a sucker born every minute." Why does Barnum's face adorn the obverse of the 1936 Bridgeport commemorative while New Hampshire's heroes have no coins to call their own?



*So the "Great Conman" (Barnum) (L) gets a coin but President Franklin Pierce (R) doesn't?*

Still, many of NH's citizens have been instrumental in the conception or creation of US coinage. United States Representative Charles G. Atherton (D-Nashua) developed joint legislation that proposed the creation of both \$1 and \$20 gold coins in 1849. That legislation was responsible for the Type I \$1 Gold coins and \$20 Liberties that we collect today. New Hampshire residents have also designed and created some of the most beautiful coins our nation ever produced. Sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens adopted New Hampshire as his home and lived in Cornish from 1885 until his death in 1907. St. Gaudens created what is arguably the most artistically beautiful coin in American history - the Twenty Dollar Gold Pieces of 1907 to 1933. More recently, Londonderry resident and sculptress, Patricia L. Verani, designed both the obverse and reverse of the 1987 Constitution Bicentennial Silver Dollar. Still, while NH's artistic talents shine, where is our New Hampshire coin?

Finally, in the year 2000, a long-awaited New Hampshire coin was struck! As part of the Statehood Quarters Program, a coin bearing the traditional George Washington obverse, from 1932, and a strictly New Hampshire reverse depicting the Old Man of the Mountain, was minted. Finally we have a coin to call our own!



*New Hampshire Finally has its own coin...but so does EVERY other state in the Union!*

The New Hampshire State Quarter provides us with 4 possible combinations of coins to collect - a 'P' mint, a 'D' mint, an 'S' mint and a silver proof 'S' mintmark. To be candid, that's not much of a collection. If you spend about \$12.00, retail, you will own them all. If you add in a mis-struck quarter, the collection couldn't possibly be more complete.

Sadly, we have only a state quarter, and an extremely rare colonial coin that most of us will only ever admire in a book. Perhaps New Hampshire coins may not be the best collection to form. In future issues we will consider New Hampshire Tokens, Medals, Colonial Currency, Obsolete Notes, and both large and small size Nationals.

## A New Hampshire Numismatic Primer!

by Mike Garofalo, LM#110

NHNA members are proud to live in the Granite State and have a strong and abiding interest in all things numismatic. Why not combine those two features and collect numismatic items from New Hampshire? Okay, but what are our options?

### Coins

Even before the Declaration of Independence was signed, the soon-to-be 'states' considered creating a coinage that would be accepted and would circulate freely. While every other state pondered the problem, New Hampshire was the first state to actually create coinage. In January of 1776, by a vote of the Representatives of the General Court of the State of New Hampshire, a committee was appointed to determine the practicality of actually minting some copper New Hampshire coins. On March 13, 1776, the committee recommended that the well-known metalsmith, William Moulton, create and strike some pattern coinage for our state. Moulton's mission was to take 100 pounds of pure copper and turn it into coinage that would be freely accepted at the rate of 108 pieces for each Spanish Milled Dollar, the preferred trade medium of the day. The coins were to be struck and would be equal to the weight of the then-circulating British copper coinage.

On June 28, 1776, the legislature passed the act giving Moulton the authorization to strike the coins. The design chosen was certainly not unique. In fact, both devices had been used repeatedly in our early coinage. The obverse of the coin was to bear a symbol of a Pine Tree, similar to the early Massachusetts Bay Colony Pine Tree Shilling coinage. It would also bear the inscription "AMERICAN LIBERTY". The reverse would depict a harp, which was used on a number of colonial coins - St. Patrick's coinage, Wood's Hibernia coinage, as well as the then-circulating \$7 continental currency bill. Moulton struck an unknown quantity of these pieces.

Today, there are approximately 5 known varieties of this rare coin. One variety bears the initials "WM" (William Moulton) on it. However, this piece was believed to have been manufactured in the 1860's by well-known collector-dealer C. Wyllys Betts. That particular variety had been listed in the "Redbook" until about 1998, when it was dropped as a fantasy piece - admittedly a nearly 140 year old fantasy piece!

It is estimated that less than 10 genuine specimens exist today. The current Redbook lists a VG specimen at \$15,000.00! The most recent sale of a genuine example (ex. Stickley/Ellesworth/Garrett) was in the 1980 Garrett sale where it raised \$13,000 for a VG specimen.



*The obverse (L) and reverse (R) of the NH Copper.*

After 1793, all coinage became Federal in nature. Let us now move ahead to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The next occurrence of numismatic state recognition came during the commemorative half dollar boom of the 1920's and 1930's. Every state in New England had one or more different commemorative half dollars struck in their honor - every state except New Hampshire, that is.

Tiny Rhode Island had the 1936 Tercentenary; Massachusetts had the 1920 Pilgrim, the 1921 Pilgrim, and the 1925 Lexington. Vermont had the 1927 Battle of Bennington. Maine had both the 1920 State Centennial and the 1936 York County Tercentenary. Connecticut had the 1936 Tercentennial and the 1936 Bridgeport. Yet where was New Hampshire's coin? Why did the Granite State receive no national recognition?

New Hampshire has raised many great statesmen and heroes - General John Stark, Senator John P. Hale, the immortal Daniel Webster, and President Franklin Pierce. Were



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The Editor may be contacted at the above address or via email at bobfritsch@earthlink.net

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